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# HISTORY

Of the Life and Death of

## FAIR ROSAMOND,

Concubine to King HENRY II.

### SHEWING

How Queen Eleanor plotted to destroy Fair Rosamond, to prevent which, she was removed to a stately Bower, at Woodstock, near Oxford; and while the King was in France, fair Rosamond was poisoned by Queen Eleanor.



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HISTORY  
Of the Life and Death of  
FAIR ROSAMOND,  
Concubine to King HENRY II.

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CHAP. I.

*Of Fair Rosamond's parentage and perfections.*

HERE sprung from that ancient and noble house of Cliffords, a damsel named Rosamond, daughter to the Lord Walter Clifford, her beauty so couched in her name, she was nature's masterpiece, and one of the fairest roses that ever flourished on earth.

This lady as she grew in years, she grew in favour, each year adding to her perfection; and when she came to maturity, her fame spread into many foreign places, whereby she was not only the publick common discourse of our own nation, but even the talk of remote countries and foreign people. Her modesty was such, that she sought by all means to灭 allay that far-spread rumour of her beauty, by a sed life; but the more she thought to extinguish and

and quench the report, by sequestering herself from the eyes of men, the more she was spoken of, the farther were her praises blown. At length her beauty reached the ears of the king, through the advertency of her uncle, who hearing his Majesty one day highly extol the features of a lady, said  
 " I have a niece, though but young, who in my judgment of beauty, as far surpasses this lady as she excels the meanest beauty of your court; her eyes sparkle like two twin stars, with such piercing rays, that dazzle those who venture to gaze on them; and her eyes brows shine like jet, and are asched like a rainbow; a spring of roses and lillies are in her cheeks, so mixed, that kind nature never before made so fair a mixture of the purest white and red; her nose a little rising, exceeds that which Apollo painted Venus with, as the chief ornament of beauty; her lips exceed the coral whenever so finely polished, soft as the crimson velvet, hiding two white of orient pearl; her chin, which with a little dimple adds beauty to the rest, and makes her face a perfect oval; her rising breasts are like two hills of snow, and her pretty hand excels in whiteness the alabaster; and so spread and branched with various kind of azure that the motion of the blood in them may be seen thro' the soft transparent skin; to be brief, she is the master-piece of nature, who when she made a cry'd a lucky hit, and threw away the mould, with none so lovely, fair and charming might come to; to dazzle the eyes of men, and wound their hearts.

This description raised such a flame in his Majesty's breast, that he demanded to know in what corner of the kingdom so great a beauty could be hid; and this the courtier who perceived he had gone to

at the king began to be enamoured at the bare report, (would fain have drawn in his words again) answered, that indeed he had made this relation only to set out a perfect beauty to the lise, begging his pardon and excuse: But the King perceiving by the coldness of this reply, there was more than ordinary in it, grew angry and told him, he trifled with him and charged him on his allegiance to tell him the truth; so fearing the King's displeasure, the courtier plainly laid, There is such a lady, daughter to Walter Lord Clifford, and of my sister's lady, living at Godstow, in Oxfordshire, of whom many worthy persons have been enamoured, and sought her in marriage; but have been refused, because her tender heart is yet incapable of love; and this I affirm is the truth on the forfeiture of my head: As for the name of this fair creature it is Rosalind, and indeed she is rightly named, for she is, if have skill in beauty, the peerless rose in the world. Whilst they were thus discouſing Queen Eleanor came to vifit the King, which broke off any further talk about her; nor needed the King any more, for his heart was possess'd with a desire to see her, that he could hardly sleep at nights for thinking of her.

It was not long ere the King resolved to invite himself to her father's house, and to that end took a progress into Oxfordshire, attended only with some trusty courtiers, and was highly welcomed by the Lord Clifford and his lady, who, hearing what his design was, ordered their daughter not to appear in his presence: But the King ordering one of his attendants to enquire of the servants to know if she was at home; and finding she was, demanded to see her, vowing he would not dine till he had. So that all their excuses

uses of illness, and the like availed nothing; she was ordered to put on her best apparel, and come down, that she might pay her duty therking, which she did in the most courtly manner, her blushes, if possible, adding to her beauty; So that at the first sight she appeared in her eyes like an angel; whereupon he eagerly saluted her; and dinner being placed on the table, commanded she should sit down, causing her to be placed directly over against him; on whose pretty eyes he had so long gazed, that he forgot often times to eat, taking in a long draught of love, which in the end proved the ruin of Rosamond by the jealousy of his furious Queen; in the sequel of this history will appear.

## CHAP. II.

How King Henry won the love of fair Rosamond, rich presents, and bribed her Governess to favor his designs, &c.

THE king having been highly entertained by the Lord Clifford, father to fair Rosamond for three days together, he had several opportunities to discourse in private with the charming virgin, whom he so much won upon with presents of rich jewels, and other costly things, that he raised an ambition in her tender breast, that the queen should die he would raise her to the dignity of the crown. He also bestowed his gold liberally on her maids, or women, who he

the care of her education; which is so blinded her eyes, and prevailed over her conscience, that she promised him to do all that was in her power with the young lady to further his wished for happiness. And so having given store of gold to all the servants, he took his leave of his fair mistres with many endearing kisses; which he had no sooner done, but he heard that troubles were risen again in his territories beyond the seas, which required his presence to allay and settle.

The king soon raising a gallant army, passed into France, the terror of whose name so daunted his enemies; that they quickly fled, leaving the towns and places, they had surprised, to his obedience. Yet in the midst of wars, blood, and slaughter, his love prevailed, and made him write to fair Rosamond in these words:

Fair Lady,

Inspired by the remembrance of your incomparable beauty, to which your king is a captive; I have nevertheless made my enemies feel the effects of my anger, and mourn in tears of blood, my hally parting from you. Guardian angel, whose bright eyes being still before me, made me a conqueror wheresoever I came; 'Tis you whom I hold dearer than all the glories of a crown I permit me, fair one, to assure you my stay shall not be long; and when I return, I'll place you in a glittering sphere above the reach of those you dread, in the mean while, let a languishing king prevail in his suit; when he begs a fine or two of comfort from your fair hand.

HENRY.

This letter somewhat surprized the young lady, and filled her with fears and resolution, not

well knowing how she should behave herself in so weighty a matter, nearly concerning her good name, fame, and character; yet the glittering prosp'ce of greatness and honour, pleading on the other hand, she resolved to shew it to her tutoress, who as soon as she read it, smiling in her face, said, my dear child, you may now well see that all the happy constellations agree, that as excellent a beauty as your's, must not be enjoyed by a mean person; you're made for a queen and in yielding now to fortune promised, is a large step towards the throne: You may perceive Love is descending in a golden shower, to make you more rich and glorious than Diana, though she was the daughter of a king. Lay aside your blushes, and send him a comfortable answer; so not too much modesty hinder you of so great honour, as being mistress of so noble a king.

This made her blushes come and go, long struggling within her, 'till at last this crafty matron used so many pressing arguments, that she returned the following answer.

Great Sir,

TWAS with no small astonishment I read a letter subscribed with your royal name, and sent to me, as I suppose from your own hand, but am altogether ignorant in any such power in me, as to make captive of my king; But could not, I confess, read without some pleasure, that my idea, as your Majesty is pleased to flatter me, should have an influence in making your majesty conqueror over your enemies. Yet, may it please your Majestie, I cannot but interest myself so much in your affaires, as to rejoice when you are glorious, and be glad of your success. But as

to my being placed in a glittering sphere, above  
the reach of those I dread, I neither understand it,  
nor dare I give myself the liberty of thinking what  
your Majesty's meaning may be therein : But as  
I know I deserve no such promotion, so neither  
do I desire it. And as to my own innocence, so  
your Majesty's royal goodness is sufficient to keep  
me from any thing intended by it, that incompat-  
ible with the strictest rules of honour and virtue.  
And therefore praying for your Majesty's happiness  
prosperity, and safe return, I beg leave with the  
humblest submission, to subscribe myself

Your Majesty's ever dutiful,  
and most obedient subject,

and humble vassal,

ROSAMOND.

The King having receiving far Rosamond's letter  
read it over and over : and is it so, lays the  
King, does Rosamond rejoice at my success, and  
pray for my prosperity and safe return ! Then  
she's my own, and on that account I'll hasten home.

All other loves henceforth I'll decline  
For now the rose of all the world is mine.

### CHAP. III.

How the Lady Clifford discovered the love that the  
King had for her daughter ; and after a severe re-  
primand sent her away ; but they hearing where she  
was, caused her to be brought to court,

THE King's affairs keeping him in Normandy  
longer than he expected, it happened that  
the lady Clifford going into her daughter's closet  
accidentally espied the King's letter to Rosamond ; at which being extremely surprised, as  
known

knowing nothing of what had passed between them, went and shewed it to her husband the Lord Clifford, who had a very tender love for Rosamond; at which he was exceedingly disturbed; then they returned both together to their daughter's chamber, where upbraiding her with being a strumpet to the King, and taking away the comfort of their lives, who looked upon her as their chiefeſt treasure; ſhe kneeled down upon her knees, and ſolemnly preteſed to them, that ſhe was till a pure and unblemished virgin. This ſolemn profeſſion ſomewhat appeaſed her father's anger, who thus replied, my only child, my deare Rosamond, the ſtaff and comfort of thy father's age, I am glad to find that thou art ſtill innocent: let me advise thee child, to have a care, and keep thyfelf unſpotted as thou art: Gaze not too much on the bright fun of honour, leſt it ſhould make thee blind to thy own deſtruction: For thouſhouldſt thou come to glitter near the throne, it would only be with a faint reſlection, that would have in it neither life nor heat. What honour would it be to have it ſaid, that Rosamond is King Henry's concubine, and for unlawfuſ love haſt lost her virtue? Consider child, if chauſtity be gaide there's nothing praife worthy in woman: pride not thyfelf in being beauteous, 'tis ſafely called ſo if thou art not chauſte, for tho' thy body appear never ſo fair, yet without chauſtity, it can not be beauteous. Beauty is like the flowers of the Spring, fair to the light, yet quickly fade away, but chauſtity is like the ſtarres of heaven, that always ſhine with a refulgent brightness. There is a diſference betweene love and luſt, one is ſafely diſtant from the other, as heaven is from hell. And all the King's addreſſes unto thee, are th-

effects of lust, and not of love; he has a queen whom his love is due; and think what a jealous rage will fill her breast, when she shall know that thou hast hem of her king: For jealousy is a hell to the mind and a terror to the conscience, suppressing reason and exciting rage. Think then my child, what's this thou canst expect, in thy unlawful love of thy husband? Thou wilt be sure to lose thy virtue, thy honour, thy chastity, thy reputation, and what is more, perhaps thy life; and which is most of all, thy soul, without repentance. If therefore thou wilt change thy virgin state, I will take care to get thee a husband for thee, with whom thou mayst live honestly, and that perhaps may be the means to quench that fire or lust thy beauty may have kindled in the King, and make the same, and us thy parents easy.

Fair Rosamond gave great attention to her father's words, assuring them, with great affectations, that she would, to the utmost of her power, avoid whatever should be displeasing to them: But that as to the changing her condition, she humbly did desire to be excused; for that she had a mind to live a virgin in quietness, and of that she had no desire. Thereupon said Rosamond, it would be much more to our satisfaction to see you married, and you well know Lord Fitz Walters has a passion for you, as nobeman of an illustrious family, as wealthy too as most lords in the kingdom, and therefore do not stand in your own light, lest you thereby do make us both believe you have too great kindness for the King.

To this Rosamond answered she would be willing to give them all the satisfaction they desired, but hoped they would not put her upon courting Lord Fitz Walters, however well accomplished he

might be : but that it was enough for her to entertain him when he came. Her father told her as to that, he would take care that all things should be managed to her satisfaction ; but when he came to court her, he expected that she would treat him as a person worthy of her love ; for he should measure the duty that she paid to him, by the respect she should shew to that young gentleman. To which she only answered, she hoped she should in no case be wanting in her duty.

But while the good Lord Clifford and his lady were pleased in their designed proposals of their daughter, King Henry returned from Normandy having concluded all his business there, and made a peace with France, and with his sons. This made fair Rosamond very indifferent to the Lord Fitz Walters, who by permission of her father had begun to court her ; so that she told him plainly she had a greater kindness for him than to expose him to the King's resentment. For she was sure whoever courted her, must undergo the anger of the King. This was such a blow to the young lord, as quickly cooled his courage, for he had no mind to have the King his rival. But before he went away he told her father how he had been dismissed by Rosamond ; who then perceiving there was no trusting to what she said, resolved to send her away as private as possible. In a few days every thing was prepared for her journey, and she and her false governess took by coach and went to a kinsman's in Cornwall, in order to remain there undiscovered, until the King's affections were diverted and placed upon some other meritorious beauty.

But when the wolf is set to keep the sheep, they are not likely to be long safe ; for Alethea

King Henry having this intelligence, resolved  
to have her out of their hands, and theretupon  
sent for her uncle, and commanding him to go to  
Scotland, and use his best endeavours to bring  
her Rosamond to court.

Her uncle seemed at first a little startled at this command, but was loth the King should think he was unwilling to obey, which might incur his displeasure, and run the risque of having those places he held under the King taken from him; for the sake of which he undertook the unprofitable service which the King imposed upon him. Having received the King's commands, away goes for Cornwall, where finding his niece, he intended great kindness to her, and how glad he was to find her there. After some jocose discourse together, he asked her if she would go up with him to court, for he was sure the King would make her welcome; she readily accepted of his offers, and therefore, without any more ado, provided a very noble chariot for her journey; and so attended with her governess, and a few lady servants, he brought her to court, and put her in private lodgings which were before appointed by the King for her reception.

Her uncle having acquainted the King that she  
was come, and how he had disposed of her, he  
came that very night to pay her a visit; and Ro-  
mond knowing it was the King, kneeled down  
upon her knee, but he ran and took her up, with

O fairest of creatures under heaven ! kneel to me, for thy excellent beauty command knees and hearts to bow to thee ; then kiss her as if he would have sucked away her breath, welcome to me, my sweetest Rose, come to Henry's court, my dearest Rosamond. All here, my Rosamond, are at thy command, then say my sweet Rose, what is it thou will of Henry.

To which she answered, under the frown of my offended parents ; I beg protection at a royal hand, and that within your court I may be free.

Free said the King : Alas ! my Rosamond, I have reason to make that petition, for you have long since made your King a captive.

Pardon me, gracious sovereign, replied Rosamond, for if I have been guilty of such a crime, I am sure it was through ignorance.

To which the King replied, Alas ! Rosamond, you have made me a captive but without a crime, for 'tis your beauty has enthralled my heart, that wondrous beauty that's without a parallel. And as for that protection which you beg, King Henry tells you, that you may command it ; it is the highest reason that you should be safe. Her answer was, I thank your majesty, I will henceforth esteem myself secure, under your promised protection.

This discourse having passed, the king told that in regard of her being fatigued with the journey, he would give her no further disturbance at night ; and so charging her uncle to see that wanted nothing she desired to have, he took leave for that night. But so much as to say, Althea, her governess, was with her still,

all she could to persuade her to yield to the King's embraces: But Rosamond deemed avise to what her father before had said to her, running in her mind. And now the King having visited her several times, began to be impatient to delay; and therefore coming one evening to her, (for he generally visited her in the evening for the greater privacy) he importuned her very much to yield to his embraces and protested his wounds could not be cured without enjoyment. Rosamond seemed extremely disordered at what King said, and was going to kneel down, but King would not suffer her, but plucked her up again, and said kneel not my dearest Rosamond, it is I should kneel to theo. I only ask—

Here Rosamond interrupting him said, 'ask for life, great Sir, and you shall have it; or any thing that is in my power to give; but ask not my honour, not to give up my virgin jewel; that is so precious and valuable; I can never part with it, but to a husband. My outward form but the casket only: 'tis Virtue is the jewel; and when that is gone, what worth is in the other; Not a poor peasant would esteem that; much less is it a present for a King. Nor would your majesty, if I should part with it, regard me afterward but as a strumpet. She that has lost her honour, is but a faded flower, how gay soever she appeared before, and like a clouded diamond, no value. 'Tis virtue only is the precious jewel that ever shines with an unclouded lustre—

And then kneeling down said: Let me beg of you, Sir, to ask no more for that which I can never grant but to a husband.

The King was greatly surprized to hear words from Rosamond; of whom he thought should have made an easy conquest: and was much in love with her good parts and virtue, he was with her beauty. And having taken leave of Rosamond, away he goes to her vernals and told her what repulses he had withal from Rosamond, instead of that enjoyment he expected; Alethea, as one that was cast adrift in wickednes, told the King, that if his majesty pleased to follow her humble advice, should not enter into any farther parties with her, he that he should find a nearer way to happiness he desired.

Pray inform me, said the King, the method you would advise to pursue, in order to gain to my embraces.

May it please your majesty, the way that would have you take is this, that you should come into my chamber to-morrow night, a little before bed time, and I will leave you there a while till I have got my lady Rosamond to bed, whereas I lie with her every night, I will defer the time of my going to bed, as I sometimes do 'till she's asleep, and then I will bring your majesty into the chamber, and you shall go to bed to her in my stead; and I doubt not but before the morning light, your majesty will so well satisfy her, that all her anger will be over: and in the future your admittance will be easy.

The King was very well pleased with this contrivance, and as a token thereof, presented her with a rich diamond ring, and told her he would follow her advice, and be with her in the next night.

The next evening the King came to Alethea and

ding to his time; and presently after she went to get Rosamond to bed, as she was wont to do: And in about an hour's time she returned and told the King that if he pleased to follow her, she would bring him where Rosamond was in bed and fast asleep.

His Majesty needed no persuasions to follow her, but went immediately to Rosamond's chamber, where he soon undressed himself; and Alethea, taking her leave, left him to manage the business with Rosamond, according to his own discretion.

The King having shut the door, and locked it after Alethea, went to bed to Rosamond, who was fast asleep, dreaming of the treacherous part that her governess had played. The King not willing presently to awake his sleeping mistress lay still; but laying closer to her than Alethea used to do, she awaked of herself and not knowing 'twas Alethea that was in bed, said, I prithee governess, (for so she used to call her, and such she thought she must lie further off a little; you crow'd so close, as if you'd thrust me out of bed.

And now the King thought it a proper time to speak to her, and let her know who it was that was her bed fellow; and thereupon he bespoke her thus; My dearest Rosamond, it is not your governess, it is your King that lies so close to you (and thereupon embraced her in his arms) I am sure you need not fear that I would thrust you out of bed.

It is not easy to imagine how great was the surprize that Rosamond was in at this discovery: and fain she would have gotten out of bed; but the King held her fast and would not let her go. O Sir, said she, I could not think you would have served me thus, when you assured me that in your court I should be safe and free.

Yes, said the King, I know I promised it; that to a man I will make my word good, for you shall be free and safe as ever.

If it be so, said she, pray let me go, and give me to rise.

No said the King, then I should break my word, cannot be more safe than in my arms, for now I am nothing can injure you.

Rosamond now found resistance would be in vain, that since things had gone so far, she had better oblige the King than to deny him that which he would whether she would or not, and thereupon, without resi any further, suffering the King to do what he pleased.

For a time these two happy lovers often met, and ed their wanton dalliances in private; but at leug it reached the the ears of the Queen, who complain the King of such usage.

#### C H A P. IV.

*How Queen Eleanor plotted to destroy fair Rosamond prevent which, she was removed to a stately Bower for her at Woodstock: How the Queen to further design, caused her son Richard to raise a war against father in Normandy.*

QUEEN Eleanor growing outrageous, when she ceived no kind words or entreaties, mixed tears, could wean the King's love from his new mil the began to use more rough measures, threatening destroy her, thinking thereby to terrify and affright from his arms; but to prevent violence, appointed he guard to wait on her at home and abroad; and to rem her further from the queen's sight; that her envy and tional clamours, if possible, might cease, he caused a palace, called the delightful Bower of Woodstock, Oxfordshire, to be built with great cost; with all

the king turnings and windings imaginable, far exceeding  
delalion Labyrinth, which he appointed for her country  
when she pleased, to take the air. The stately  
bower had many entries and passages under-ground, into  
which light came thro' narrow stone crevices, shaded with  
trees not perceived to those that walked above, rising  
at doors in hills far distant, to escape from danger, upon  
timely notice, tho' the palace should be suddenly  
assieged and surrounded: and within this stately Bower  
were intricate mazes and windings, through long entries,  
rooms, and galleries, strongly secured with 152 doors; so  
difficult to find the way into the remote apartments, the skilful  
had left a silver clew of thread, without the guidance  
which, it was impossible to be done. About this Bower  
were curious gardens, fountains, and a wilderness, and all  
manner of delights for pleasant situation and recreation, to  
mish it out as another earthly paradise, for so fair a  
nature to inhabit; and thither the King often resorted  
to see his beloved Rosamond.

This enraged the queen more and more, therefore she  
insulted her sons how to be revenged; at length it was  
decided on that Prince Richard, should go over and join  
the French to raise war against his father in Nor-  
mandy, which then belonged to the crown of England and  
it would draw the King thither to aid his subjects, so  
leaving his fair mistress behind, the queen would have no  
opportunity to plot against her life. Nor was Prince  
Richard slow in this, but made a fierce war, beat the  
king's lieutenant, and took many towns; which news  
coming to the King's ear, roused him as a lion from his  
bed, and filled him with princely resolutions and revenge;  
true indeed, these different passions of revenge and love,  
struggled in his breast; but love at last gave place unto  
honour, and he therefore resolved to pass the sea with  
a well disciplined army.

## C H A P. V.

*How the King took leave of Rosamond to pass the Sea,  
left her to the care of her uncle.*

THIS resolution of the King soon came to the ~~ear~~ of Rosamond, which she received with an inexpressible grief. The King however, firm unto his resolute being just ready to depart for Normandy, went to ~~the~~ leave of fair Rosamond, and to assure her of his love and kindness, when his Majesty came in, he found her in swoon, and when she came a little to herself, faintly said, dearest prince. How cruel is unkind fortune unto love that we must so soon part; my presaging foul forbids never to meet again in this world; was it for this that I gave up my virgin innocence to your will and pleasure! Is there no English General trusty and valiant enough to scourge your rebels, but you must be separated from your faithful Rosamond.

Then calling to him Sir Thoms, her uncle, he said, he was a worthy knight, I commit this inestimable treasure to your sole care and conduct, my fair Rosamond; a treasure more valuable than a kingdom; take to you a strong guard for your defence, and be careful, I charge you, as you value your life, that none be permitted to see her, till her return. And you may expect fair Rosamond, I shall write to you often, require your answers. Alas, said she, theimploring parting is worse than death, and I'm afraid my death will be the fatal issue of it. I'm sure the soul and body cannot part with so much pain, as now I part with you. Fain would I speak the last farewell, but cannot, there are so many deaths in that hard word. Go, royal sir, that I may grieve my grief; for grief's but gues'd, while you are standing by. Ah, Rosamond, replied the King, methinks there are such mournful sounds in parting, that I could lang for ever it were caus'd.

thine arms, and look away my life upon thine eyes : But  
we far to go, and must hasten. And so have I, said  
Rosamond again, if death be far, for that's the stage to  
which I now am going, from whence I never, never shall  
return. And in tears parted from each other.

## C H A P. VI.

*How fair Rosamond was poisoned by Queen Eleanor while the King was in France.*

THE King being gone out of the land, away the queen posts to Woodstock, with some of her trusty friends, who arrived at the Bower, essayed to enter, which was stiffly denied by Sir Thomas, her uncle, on which a fierce combat ensued, and Sir Thomas and his guard being killed by the queen's party, they siezed on the clew of thread and presented it to the queen, who by its guidance, was directed to the centre of the labyrinth, where she found Rosamond, sitting as the sun, within the little world.

It cannot be expressed the amazement and confusion fair Rosamond was in when she beheld the queen, and immediately fell down on her knees, confess'd her fault and implored her pardon for a crime she was constrained to act ; and at last she humbly besought her in compassion to her infant that struggled in her womb, she might live, though in a dungeon, 'till she was delivered. But all in vain, the jealousy of the enraged queen could not be appeased, she gave her the choice either to drink the cup of poison she had prepared for her, or die by the sword. Fair Rosamond finding she could have no pity, chose the poison, and drank it up, which soon put an end to her life ; whom the queen caused to be buried privately with the rest that were slain, and



and so departed, rejoicing in the success of her revenge her rival, but little consider'd the misery it would pull her own head.

### C H A P. VII.

*How when the King returned and heard of fair Rosamond death, he caused several of the Queen's party to be put death, and her Majesty to be imprisoned for life.*

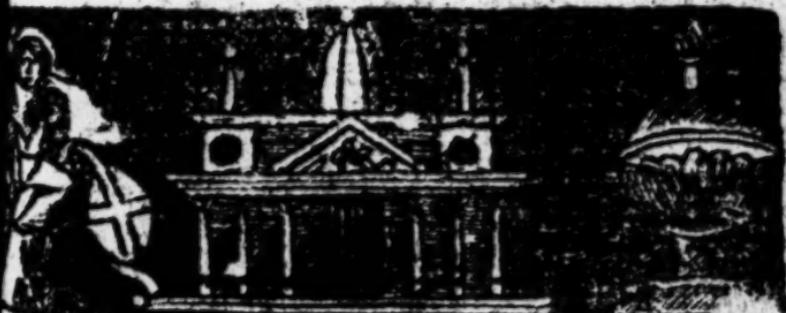
**S**OON after the untimely death of fair Rosamond, the King returned home victorious; but when he heard of the tragic end, his joy was soon turned into mourning and in a kind of distraction rent his royal robes, often weeping and crying out, O my Rosamond, my fairest flower,

! how art thou blasted by a cruel death, and with  
all my joys are faded; O thy parting tears presaged  
we should meet no more. O that I had staid to defend  
from this ruin, though to the loss of a country, nay,  
losing of mine own fame and renown.

The King having a little eased his grief, summoned his  
nobles, and commanded them to make a strict enquiry after  
those that were concerned in this action; and they were  
all present therein, that most of them were apprehended,  
brought, and put to the most cruel tortures; who all blamed  
the Queen, and so fierce was the King's anger, that neither  
her intercession nor the intercession of his nobles on her behalf, could  
soothe his wrath, but being a foreign princess, her life was  
spared, yet the King not only for ever renounced her, but  
condemned her for life in a strict imprisonment, commanding  
that she died there, her body should not be buried, but  
should moulder to dust; nor would he forgive her at his  
death, for she outlived him, and was set at liberty after his  
death, by her son Richard, who succeeded his father.

King Henry having wrecked his vengeance on the  
murderers of his beloved Rosamond, caused her body to be  
taken out of that obscure cave, in which the queen had  
condemned her to be laid, and buried her with all the funeral  
honors imaginable, at Godstow, near Oxford, erected to her  
memory a stately tomb, on which was this inscription.

Within this tomb lies the world's chiefest rose,  
She who was sweet, will now offend your nose.



This was the end of fair Rosamond, who, had she been led astray by King Henry, with the glittering tinsel of royalty, might have made a wife worthy for the greatest in England.

F I N I S

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